

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-22 are pending in this application, with claims 12, 15, and 20 being the only independent claims. Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, and 22 are amended. Claims 1-11 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because claim 20 is directed to a name server and only recites a server. Claim 20 is amended to recite that the server stores addresses in a memory. Accordingly, the claim now provides structure of the server.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 12-16, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,277,453 (Chin) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,016,512 (Huitema) in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0218611 (Kim) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,554,991 (Sbida).

Claims 17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Chin, Huitema, Kim, and Sbida and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0133775 (Callas).

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over as unpatentable over Chin, Huitema, Kim, and Sbida and further in view of WO 2005/069663 (Laurila).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief description of the subject matter described in the present application is deemed appropriate to facilitate understanding of the arguments for patentability. The description is not meant to argue unclaimed subject matter.

Accordingly, the purpose of the present invention is to allow a transmitting operator to query a receiving operator for the data of the network element before forming a connection, for

example, in an IMS environment, where the network element data is not available in DNS servers of the Internet (see page 2, lines 20-25).

In known methods, the transmitting operator would maintain a static list or database of network elements. For the network elements that are not available from the public DNS system, it is difficult to keep the static list or database up to date (see page 2, lines 9-18 of the application).

According to the invention, the transmitting operator makes a dynamic query to a private database of the receiving operator, which provides the properties of the required network element. The private database is in a private name server. Thus, the transmitting operator does not have to maintain these properties (see page 3, lines 1-7 of the application as originally filed).

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a first network, i.e., the transmitting network, has a control element S and a local name server D (see Fig. 1 and page 5, lines 10-26). A second network, i.e., the receiving network, has a contact point I that functions as an access point to the second network (see page 5, lines 5-8) and a name server PD which stores network addresses of the internal elements of the second operator network (see page 5, lines 29-32).

According to an embodiment of the present invention, when a subscriber of the transmitting network sends a SIP INVITE message to a subscriber of the receiving network, the control element S queries the local name server D of the transmitting network and the local name server of the transmitting network in turn queries the private name server PD of the receiving network for the address of the contact point I of the second network (see page 6, lines 10-18). After the private name server PD has provided the address, the local name server D forwards the information to the control element S which then transmits the communication to the contact point I of the receiving network (page 6, lines 18-21). Accordingly, the local name server D of the transmitting network is required to store only the network address of the private name server PD of the receiving network.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to recite “the second name server being a private name server storing internal addresses of internal elements of the second operator network, the internal addresses being of the type that should not be found by a public system, the internal addresses of internal elements including network addresses of access points of the second operator network”.

None of the references disclose a private name server. In the rejection of claims 13 and 16 in the office action, the Examiner states that Chin discloses that the second name server is a domain name server including network addresses of other network elements of the second operator network and wherein the required access points are not available in a public DNS system.

Chin discloses inter private network communications in which a host in one private network accesses another host in another private network via a public network (See Figs. 1 and 2 of Chin). Chin relates to interconnecting networks using private address spaces and more specifically to a private network having one shared global IPv4 address among multiple devices (col. 1, lines 43-47 of Chin). In the rejection of claims 13 and 16 at the bottom of page 5 of the office action, the Examiner refers to Fig. 4, and col. 13, lines 25-33; and col. 12, lines 62-65 of Chin as disclosing the claimed second name server. However, col. 12, lines 62-65 states that only the hosts H1-A and H1-B and not the individual devices are registered with the respective DNS server. Thus, the name servers of Chin are conventional name servers storing host addresses and not addresses of internal elements. Thus, Chin fails to disclose the private name server as recited in independent claim 12.

The other references cited in the rejection, Huitema, Kim, Sbida, Callas, Laurila also fail to disclose the claimed features.

Therefore, none of the documents independently or in combination teaches or suggests the limitations of independent claim 12.

Independent claims 15 and 20 are directed to a method and a name server, respectively, and include limitations similar to the above limitations of independent claim 12. Accordingly, independent claims 15 and 20 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 12.

Dependent claims 13-14, 16-19, and 21-22 are allowable for the same reasons as are independent claims 12, 15, and 20, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any remaining comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 503111.

Respectfully submitted,
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